

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-18 and 21-28 are currently pending in this application. All claims have been rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23 and 26 have been amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 4-10, 13-18 and 21-28 would be pending.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, 13, 15-18, 21 and 23-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,832,338 to Kuga (“Kuga”) in view of US 6,067,645 to Yamamoto (“Yamamoto”) and alleged “well known prior art.” Claims 6, 14, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuga, Yamamoto, and alleged “well known prior art,” as applied to Claims 1, 10, and 18, and further in view of US 4,569,585 to Masuda.

Claims 1, 10, 18 and 26, as amended, are directed to arrangements in which, in response to the unplugging of the interface cable during an image reading process controlled by an external apparatus, the image reading apparatus initializes the mechanical position of the image sensing, and then enters into a sleep mode.

With such control, it is possible for example to automatically save energy to be consumed by the image reading apparatus which is supplied from an external power supply. Further, an exemplary reason of initializing the mechanical position of the image sensing unit is

that it is difficult to use image data read midway. By setting the mechanical position to the initial position before the image reading apparatus enters into the sleep mode, when an image reading process is initialized under control of the external apparatus after the interface cable is connected, it is possible for example to quickly start to read an image from the first.

Turning to the cited references, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Kuga is silent as to any detecting of the unplugging of the interface cable. It necessarily follows that Kuga is also silent as to the operations of initializing the mechanical position of the image sensing unit and of entering into sleep mode in response to the detection of the unplugging of the interface cable, as claimed.

Yamamoto relates to a display device. The operation of entering the sleep mode and initialization are both controlled electrically. Yamamoto is also silent at least as to any initializing of the mechanical position of the image sensing unit in response to the detection of the unplugging of the interface cable.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the control method of Kuga for a “copying machine” and the control method of Yamamoto for a “display device”.

The remaining reference Masuda does not remedy the deficiencies in the Kuga and Yamamoto teachings.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 and their dependent claims are distinguishable over Kuga and Yamamoto, individually or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

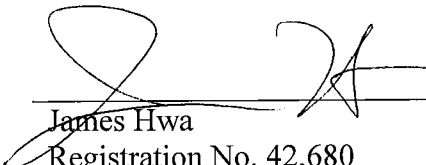
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: 10/21/08

By:



James Hwa
Registration No. 42,680
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101